**Earth Science Syllabus**

Washington Latin PCS • 2014-2015

Ms. Cloutier-Simons

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Welcome to 8th grade Earth science! This year we will be learning about our place in the universe, natural processes that occur on our planet, and how we, humans, affect planet Earth.

**Topics to be covered this year include:**

1. **The Science Mind:** Thinking like a Scientist and Engineer
2. **Earth and Space -** The universe and our solar system**,** the Earth, moon, and sun**,** gravitational forces, Newton’s laws of motion**,** energy from space.
3. **Our Changing Earth -** Geologic time, the periodic table, matter, atoms, tectonic plates**,** volcanoes and earthquakes.
4. **Oceans and Atmosphere -** Oceans and water**,** the atmosphere**,** climate, weather, and heat transfer
5. **Energy –** Nonrenewable and renewable energy sources

**Expectations**

Students must adhere to all expectations set forth in the 2014-2015 WLPCS Family Handbook.

1. **Arrive on time.** Lateness will not be accepted.
2. **Be prepared**. Arrive to class each day with the required materials and homework.
3. **Respect** yourself, respect others, and respect the classroom and its equipment.
4. **Ask questions**. Students should make every effort to ask questions when they are not clear about expectations or directions.

**Participation**

Students will self-assess their participation and will be given participation grades each week. All students will be evaluated on whether they are active in class discussions and lab experiences, work well with classmates, follow through with group tasks, and ask questions in class.

Every student will be assigned the role of “Lab Assistant” at least one week this year. Students will be responsible for helping Ms. Cloutier-Simons with passing out of materials and cleaning up after activities. Students will receive a participation grade, separate from their weekly grade, for this effort.

**Required Materials**

The following materials should be brought to class each day:

* A **blue,** Science-only spiral notebook with a **PLASTIC** cover. This will be known as the **Interactive Science Notebook**
* Pens or pencils
* 1” three-ring binder or a folder to hold extra handouts
* WLPCS Planner
* Colored pencils
* Scissors (optional, but highly recommended)
* Scotch tape (optional, but highly recommended)

You do NOT need a binder for Science class!

**Grade Breakdown**

Earth science grades will be calculated as follows:

Homework 10%

Classwork and Participation 15%

Labs and Projects 25%

Quizzes 25%

Tests 25%

**Science Homework**

Homework will be given to students on a daily basis. It will be your responsibility to record any homework assignments from the front board. You may also check Ms. Cloutier-Simons’ Wikispace for homework assignments. Weekly assignments will be posted by Monday night on the 8th grade Science Wikispace, however, the assignments may change over the course of the week. It is up to the student to double check each night’s homework assignment. The Wikispace for Science can be found at: <http://wlpcsmiddleschool.wikispaces.com/Cloutier-Simons>

Students that are involved in sports must adhere to the homework policy outlined below. Student athletes are expected to meet with their teachers prior to an early dismissal to turn in homework that will be due and to get the homework for the evening. Student athletes are required to turn in all homework that they will miss in their absence, and failure to do so may result in a zero for the assignment. It is expected that student athletes will meet with teachers upon their return in order to review what was missed.

**WLPCS Homework/Project Policy**

The point of daily homework is to advance a student's learning through independent practice and/or exploration. Homework and classwork are often intertwined and homework provides the catalyst for a day's lesson. We will therefore not accept late homework; students who turn in completed homework on the day it is due (the degree of completion the province of the teacher) will receive full credit; **students who fail to turn in homework on the day it is due will not receive any credit for that daily assignment.** Individual teachers will grant exceptions to this policy for illness, significant family events, or anything else a teacher deems worthy of exception.

Because we take seriously our responsibility to teach students how to manage their time and plan for a long-term project, we take a different approach with anything that requires more than one or two days to complete. **Students who complete a long-term project on time are eligible to receive full credit; students who hand in a long-term project one day late can receive no better than a B, and students who turn in a long-term project two days late can receive no better than a C.**At the end of the two-day period, teachers may decide to give students partial credit for the work they have done on a project or they may decide to give a student a failing grade. Individual teachers will determine any exceptions for illness, significant family events, etc.

**Academic integrity**

Students are held to the high standards of academic integrity as stated in the WLPCS Family Handbook. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

* Giving or receiving information during tests/quizzes either verbally, visually or electronically
* Bringing prepared materials, e.g., notes on cheat sheets, hands, arms, etc., to the test
* **Copying homework** or allowing someone else complete the homework assignment for the student
* **Allowing another student to copy all or part of the homework assignment"**(p 36).

Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an immediate referral to the dean's office and a zero for that given assignment.

**Work Revisions**

Students should focus on daily Science work to maintain their grade, therefore, there will be no extra credit in Science. However, students will have the ability to revise, or “redo” **no more than two lab**/**project** assignments **per quarter**. This allows the student to better master the material that is required in the course, rather than spending their time on additional assignments.

In order to take advantage of a redo opportunity, a student **must…**

* Have a parent sign the original lab or project assignment
* Meet with Ms. Cloutier-Simons to discuss a plan for revision and set a new deadline.
* Stay after school with Ms. Cloutier-Simons to work on the revisions or attend review sessions.

**No revisions will be accepted during the last week of the quarter.** Ms. Cloutier-Simons may decide not to allow work revisions in instances when abuse of the privilege is suspected (i.e. when a student has waited too long to start a multi-week project).

**Recommendations**

Any student that is considering attending a high school elsewhere and wishes to receive a recommendation from your Science teacher, **must** give **two weeks’** notice, and provide a **self-addressed, self-stamped envelope** for the school. Be sure to fill out all parts of the recommendation that must be completed by the student or guardian first. All recommendations will be mailed directly from the school; for confidentiality purposes, the forms cannot be returned to you.

Students should make every effort to ask Ms. Cloutier-Simons for the recommendation in person. No recommendations will be completed if they are found in a mailbox or left on a desk, unless an arrangement has been made prior. In some instances, Ms. Cloutier-Simons may ask to meet with you outside of class time to review the recommendation prior to completing it.

**Textbooks**

Each student will receive a textbook to be brought home and must be kept in a clean, dry, and safe location. This textbook must be returned at the end of the year. Failure to return a textbook, or, returning a textbook in unsatisfactory condition, will result in a bill to the parent/guardian for a replacement book.

**Extra Help**

Ms. Cloutier-Simons will be present every day after school until 3:45pm for additional science support. Students must make an appointment to meet after school by signing up on the sign-up sheet outside of Ms. Cloutier-Simons’ classroom. Students that are absent from class are expected to stay after school as soon as possible to make up missed classwork or labs. No class time will be used to make up missed work.

**Contacting Ms. Cloutier-Simons**

Parents and students are encouraged to contact Ms. Cloutier-Simons at any time with questions. Please email [dcloutier@latinpcs.org](mailto:dcloutier@latinpcs.org) or call 202-223-1111 extension 204.

All calls or emails will be returned within 24 hours. Email will be the easiest way to contact Ms. Cloutier-Simons.

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Please save the previous portion of the syllabus for your records.

**Return this signed page to Ms. Cloutier-Simons**

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Syllabus Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(**student name**) acknowledge that I have fully read the 2014-2015 Earth Science syllabus, understand all expectations set forth in it, and will do my best to meet those expectations.

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**Student Name (please print)**  **Student Signature**  **Date**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(**parent/guardian name**) acknowledge that I have read the 2014-2015 Earth science syllabus, understand the expectations of my son or daughter, and will encourage them to ask questions or stay after school for help.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature**  **Date**